

Typhoon Usagi Central Emergency Operation Center Press Release

Cabinet Strategy Group

President Inspects Central Emergency Operation Center (CEOC) and Instructs that Effective Disaster Prevention Work Should be Implemented

President Ma Ying-jeou visited Typhoon Usagi CEOC this afternoon (September 20) at 16:30 accompanied by officials including Premier of the Executive Yuan Jiang Yi-huah and Vice Premier Mao Chi-kuo. President also held a video conference with 9 leaders in Yilan County, Hualien County, Taitung County, Kaohsiung City, Pingtung County, Tainan City, Nantou County, Chiayi County and Chiayi City to understand various local municipalities' typhoon disaster preparedness.

Currently, strong typhoon Usagi is located at sea 400km east south-east of Eluanbi, the Category 4 typhoon has a storm radius of 280km. It is moving in a west north-westerly direction at a speed of 18km/h. The storm center has entered Bashi Channel and sea surface southeast of Taiwan, affecting Hualien, Taitung, Hengchun Peninsula, Chiayi, Nantou, Tainan, Kaohsiung and Pingtung. The strong typhoon is extremely well-structured with a larger storm center and the outer circulation is accompanied by strong wind and heavy rainfall. The most influential period of the typhoon is between after dark today (September 20) and tomorrow (September 21).

The President reminded leaders of local municipalities that this is the most powerful typhoon to hit Taiwan this year; it is well-structured, while strong wind and heavy rainfall are forecasted. He urged Central Government and local municipalities to be prepared in terms of disaster prevention and response, especially preventive evacuation measures. Since the typhoon coincides with the Mid-Autumn's Festival long weekend, government institutions and private businesses are all on vacation, and many people have taken the opportunity to embark on leisure or traveling activities. As a result, people tend to become heedless psychologically and neglect their typhoon prevention preparations. The public is reminded to remain vigilant, observe typhoon related information closely and carry out all necessary typhoon disaster prevention work. In particular, easily loosened scaffolding and signboards must be

reinforced. Furthermore, the public should be advised not to go out unless it is absolutely necessary to avoid accidents. As far as flood prevention and control projects that the local municipalities have expressed concerns about, the Executive Yuan is scheduled to complete assessment within three months.

The President also instructed that the typhoon's departure from Taiwan also coincides with the end of the Mid-Autumn's Festival holiday, where a large number of people are expected to return to work. Moreover, strong winds and heavy rain may cause interruptions in marine, air, road and railroad transportations, MOTC is requested to devise plans and contingency measures accordingly in order to reduce inconvenience for the public.